

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 5 has been amended to even more clearly distinguish the prior art. The amendments to claim 5 are supported by, for example, page 7, lines 15-24 and page 8, lines 12-13 (transparent member thicker than transparent film) and page 9, line 16 to page 10, line 6 (three dimensions) and, therefore, do not introduce new matter.

Claim 5 has again been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art shown in Fig. 7 and defined on pages 1 and 2 of the specification, in view of Ogden (U.S. Patent No. 4,478,666); and claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applicant's admitted prior art, in view of Ogden, and further in view of Miwa (U.S. Patent No. 4,625,097).

These rejections are respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Ogden and Miwa patents do not disclose the claimed arrangement of a transparent member, transparent film, *and* colored member in which the transparent member has a thicker thickness than that of the transparent film, as claimed, such that a decoration provided on a portion of the transparent film is projected through the transparent member onto the colored member for a stereovision or "three dimensional" effect, as claimed.

Instead, the Miwa patent and admitted prior art disclose rice cookers that lack the claimed three layer structure, while the Ogden patent is directed to a

membrane or keyboard switch control panel arrangement and label assembly that not only lacks the claimed three layer structure, but that does not in any way resemble a rice cooker.

Rather than the claimed three layer structure, the Ogden patent discloses a legend sheet 16 and a cover sheet 18 that may be formed from transparent Mylar polyester, and in which the back side of the legend sheet, except for the viewing windows defined by the rings 94, are covered with a contrasting but opaque color, such as yellow, employing a suitable silk screening procedure (see column 8, lines 64 to 68). This is clearly not the same as the claimed three layer structure, in which a portion of a transparent film is projected through a transparent member onto a colored member to provide a three-dimensional display. Ogden never even considers or has the remotest need for such a three-dimensional display.

Further, the present invention, as defined in claim 5, is directed to a rice cooker characterized in that an outer member includes a transparent member, a transparent film formed on a top surface of the transparent member, and a colored member integrally formed on a bottom surface of the transparent member, wherein the colored member is connected to a cover of the rice cooker.

While rice cookers are known from the admitted prior art and Miwa, none of these rice cookers includes a three-dimensional display as claimed, and Ogden's keyboard is certainly not suggestive of including such a display on a rice cooker. Instead, the rice cooker described in Applicant's specification, which is typical of prior rice cookers, uses an outer member of two layers including a colored member 55 and a transparent film 59 on the colored member 55, but does not disclose the outer

member of three layers including the transparent film, the transparent member and the colored member as in the present invention. The Ogden patent could hardly have suggested modification of the two layer arrangement of the prior art to include the claimed three layer arrangement since the Ogden patent discloses neither the claimed three layer arrangement nor applicability of any teachings therein to a rice cooker rather than a keyboard.

Specifically, in the present invention, the transparent member is interposed between the transparent film and the colored member to exhibit a transparent texture quality, a depth and classic texture quality, and a stereovision or "three dimensional" effect, whereas in the applicant's admitted prior art, there is no transparent member between the colored member 55 and the transparent film 59, so that the inventive effects of the present invention cannot be obtained. Ogden does not make up for this deficiency because it also does not disclose the claimed three layers including a transparent film, transparent member, and colored member, much less the positively recited equipment utilizing water of the present invention wherein an outer member includes a transparent member interposed between a colored member and a transparent film, the colored member being connected to a cover of the equipment. Accordingly, the Ogden patent could not reasonably have suggested modification of any prior art rice cooker, including the admitted prior art rice cooker with a two layer structure, to include the specific three layer structure of the claimed invention.

Appl. No. 10/715,561
Amendment dated: March 14, 2007
Reply to OA of: November 15, 2006

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA

Registration No. 33,805

Date: March 14, 2007

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
703-683-0500